

1. Mary Was a Godly Young Woman, But She Needed the Grace of God (1:26-33).
 - a. This grace was a gift from God (28-30).
 - i. Graced with God's favor (28).
 1. "Favor" is translated from the word "xaris" often translated "grace" – God's unmerited favor.
 2. Mary had not earned this privilege, because grace cannot be earned (29).
 - a. She was troubled. She was trying to figure out why she should be blessed!
 - b. Titus 3:5 "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"
 3. She received God's grace by faith (38).
 - a. Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."
 - b. Romans 4:2-5 "For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."
 - ii. Graced with God's sustaining presence (28).
 1. "The Lord is with thee" means that God would enable her to carry out this task
 2. God would come upon Mary to perform this impossible task just as God had come upon Sarah, Samson, Elijah, and others.
 - b. This grace was the gift of God's Son, JESUS (30-33; cf. Matt. 1:21).
 - i. JESUS means "Jehovah is salvation" or "Jehovah Saves."
 - ii. Jesus would be Israel's Savior.
 1. The Son of the Highest, "Son of God"
 2. The Son of David, the Messiah
 - iii. Jesus would be our Savior from sin's ultimate penalty.
 1. Matthew 1:21 "He shall save His people from their sins."
 2. Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."
 3. Romans 5:8 "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."
 4. Even Mary admitted her need for a personal Savior (47).
2. Mary Struggled to Fully Understand God's Promise, But She Responded in Faith (34-38).
 - a. It's helpful to recognize that Zacharias disbelieved Gabriel's message and asked for a sign (1:18), but Mary never doubted God's Word, and asked for clearer understanding (34).
 - i. To those who still seek a sign, Jesus' resurrection is all that we need!
 - ii. Matthew 12:38-41 "Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."
 - iii. To those who seek for answers, if you will draw near to God, He will draw near to you (James 4:8).
 - b. God granted her request with further explanation (35-37).
 - i. She would conceive a Child by the agency of the Holy Spirit.
 - ii. Therefore, the Child would be the Son of God.
 1. Jesus had to be God, because sin demands an infinite penalty.

- a. Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death”
 - b. Revelation 21:8 “But the fearful, and unbelieving...and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone which is the second death.”
 - 2. Jesus had to be God to completely pay for the sin of the world.
 - a. Matthew 27:46 “And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying...My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”
 - b. John 19:30 “When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.”
 - c. Mary’s response of faith reveals to us the reason that God could use her (38).
 - i. The handmaid of the Lord.
 - ii. Be it unto me according to thy word.
 - iii. Mary is praised for her faith (39-45).
3. God Now Extends His Grace to All People (2:8-14).
- a. God’s message of grace is for all (10-11)
 - i. The message is “for all people” (10).
 - ii. John 3:16 “For God so love the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
 - iii. Romans 10:13 “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
 - b. God’s message of grace offers peace and good will to all (12-14).
 - i. 2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”
 - ii. Romans 5:1 “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Conclusion:

1. Are you trying to earn God’s favor?
2. Have you admitted your need for a Savior?
3. Have you received God’s gift of grace?
4. If you have received God’s grace, are you sharing the good tidings with others?